

NORTH CHICAGO, IL – After a 17-year closure, U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk and North Chicago Mayor Leon Rockingham joined with Navy, state and county officials to open the new gate at Great Lakes Naval Station. This opening will bring thousands of sailors and civilians to North Chicago's new economic development project, "Sheridan Crossing."

"After years of patient work to commit federal funds, I am happy we completed this critical project to restart the economy of North Chicago," said Congressman Kirk. "I will join with Mayor Rockingham to foster stores and other businesses brought by this project to expand jobs and opportunity in this community."

The gate opened for traffic on May 21. At the ceremony, Congressman Kirk discussed his talk with the Secretary of the Navy to open the gate from 5 a.m. to midnight each day.

"Hundreds of people will use the northern exit for the base. As they become accustomed to the new gate, entrepreneurs will be able to attract their business, eventually hiring more people and expanding the North Chicago economy. I want to give special thanks to Mayor Rockingham and Alderman Ellis for their work on this economic development project. I also want to thank former Alderman Mike Miceli who first proposed this project."

Significant resources were devoted to opening Gate 4 and redesigning the Martin Luther King Drive and Sheridan Road intersection, including \$5.5 million from the federal government, \$3.8 million from North Chicago and \$600,000 from Lake County. The Illinois Department of Transportation and Union Pacific Railroad also played key roles in the development of the new railroad crossing at the intersection.